Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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NEW TOBACCO FACTORY PLANNED IN SWEDEN

The Swedish Tobacco Monopoly expects to start construction in December on a long-planned modern factory at Malmo. Because of complicated technical details, it will probably take about 2 years to build. This factory will replace an older installation.

ITALIAN TOBACCO IMPORTS UP IN 1958; EXPORTS DOWN

Italian imports of unmanufactured tobacco during the first 4 months of 1958, at 6.3 million pounds, were 28 percent larger than those for January-April 1957. Substantially larger takings from Greece, and purchases of 1.5 million pounds from the United States, more than offset a drop in imports from Turkey.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Italy, imports and exports, January-April 1957 and 1958

Country	Imports		Exports	
	Jan.-April 1957	Jan.-April 1958	Jan.-April 1957	Jan.-April 1958
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Belgium-Luxembourg	--	--	1/	203
Bulgaria	1,209	--	--	--
Egypt	--	--	468	346
Germany, West	--	--	3,967	2,868
Greece	1,052	3,268	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	2,115	767
Portugal	--	--	948	1/
Switzerland	--	--	428	558
Turkey	2,658	1,504	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	468	552
United States	--	1,547	1,613	1,707
Others	6	--	1,933	1,402
Total	4,925	6,319	11,940	8,403

1/ If any, included with others.
Source: Statistica mensile del commercio con l'estero, April 1958.

Italian exports of unmanufactured tobacco during January-April 1958 totaled 8.4 million pounds--down 30 percent from the 11.9 million shipped in the first 4 months of 1957. Major markets were West Germany, the United States, and the Netherlands. Average prices paid for Italian leaf tobacco during January-April 1958 by principal markets, in terms of U.S. cents per pound, were: West Germany, 42.1; the Netherlands, 29.9; United States, 54.1; United Kingdom, 67.8; and Switzerland, 46.1.

BURMESE TOBACCO ASSOCIATION FORMED

A new tobacco association has been formed by 400 planters and curers in the Pakokku District of Burma. These producers can reportedly supply two-thirds of the government's 1958 production goal for Virginia-type tobacco.

The new association has recommended that the government buy all home-grown tobacco for resale to manufacturers and that tobacco imports be gradually reduced and, if possible, halted. It has also requested government loans and government provision of a drying plant and a cold storage warehouse, regulation of product grading, and advance payments on forward sales of tobacco.

VENEZUELANS PROPOSE CIGARETTE IMPORT MONOPOLY

Representatives of Venezuelan tobacco growers have proposed that a monopoly be set up to handle all cigarette imports. Growers believe that such a monopoly might be used to limit cigarette imports.

The United States has for some time had a large share of the cigarette market in Venezuela. Venezuelan tobacco growers want to limit this competition and promote sales of domestic cigarettes so that there will be greater demand for local tobacco.

AUSTRIA RAISES PRICE OF U. S. CIGARETTES

On September 1, the retail price for imported standard-size U. S. cigarettes sold in Austria was increased from 9 schillings (34.6 U. S. cents) to 10 schillings (38.5 U. S. cents) per pack. Imported "king-size" U. S. cigarettes are still 12 schillings (46.2 U. S. cents) per pack.

The Austrian Monopoly has indicated that the price rise for regular cigarettes was necessitated by an increase in U. S. export prices effective about a year ago. In 1957, the United States supplied about 75 percent of Austria's cigarette imports.

ITALIAN APPLE AND PEAR CROP ESTIMATES RAISED

Italy's 1958 apple crop is now officially estimated at 65.7 million boxes, compared with 62.9 million forecast earlier this season and 44.6 million boxes actually harvested in 1957. The estimate for the 1958 pear crop has been raised from 19.8 million boxes to 20.6 million. Pear production in 1957 totaled 15.9 million boxes.

SMALL 1958 YUGOSLAV DRIED PRUNE PACK EXPECTED TO BRING GOOD PRICES

Yugoslavia's drought-reduced dried prune pack is expected to bring high prices.

The new pack is tentatively estimated at 20,000 short tons--about the same as the preceding year but 10 percent less than the 1951-55 average. Yugoslav trade estimates, however, range from 16,500 to 26,500 tons. The pack is expected to grade out into the following sizes:

80/85	prunes	per	half	kilogram	10	percent
95/100	"	"	"	"	50	"
110/120	"	"	"	"	25	"
Over 120	"	"	"	"	15	"

Earlier this season, small-sized prunes averaging 110/120 per half kilogram (Uzans) were quoted at 11.8 cents per pound, f.o.b. Yugoslav border. In late September, this size was being offered at 12.7 cents per pound, with expectation that the price would rise to 13.6 cents as the season progressed. Size 95/100 prunes (half kilogram) in late September were quoted from 13.6 to 15.9 cents per pound, and size 80/85 (half kilogram) at 15.9 to 18.1 cents.

Fresh plums of the principal drying variety (Pozegatcha) have been exported in volume only to East Germany (4,200 tons), to Czechslovakia (4,400 tons), and West Germany during 1958.

Between July 1, 1957, and March 31, 1958, exports of Yugoslav dried prunes totaled 16,581 short tons, with the Soviet Union taking more than half of all exports. Dried prune exports for the principal markets for the periods, July 1, 1956-June 30, 1957, and July 1, 1957-March 31, 1958, were:

Destination	July 1, 1956-June 30, 1957	July 1, 1957-March 31, 1958
	Short tons	Short tons
U.S.S.R.	55	8,804
Czechoslovakia	0	2,246
Italy	55	1,744
France	1,067	1,378
Poland	27	613
Austria	6	569
Germany, East	0	534
Germany, West	11	432

ARGENTINE DECREES HELP FRUIT TRADE WITH BRAZIL

Argentina has issued two decrees implementing its new fruit trade agreement with Brazil.

The Central Bank of Argentina will now automatically grant authorizations for free market imports from Brazil of bananas, coconuts, pineapple, grapefruit, oranges, avocadoes, other fresh, dried, and preserved fruit, concentrated fruit juice, and Brazil and cashew nuts. Conversely, Argentine exports of fruit (fresh, dried, and preserved) will also have the benefit of the free market rate. Exporters can use the free rate not only in buying fruit but in paying freight, insurance, and other charges.

Prior to this action, fruit trade with Brazil was at the official rate of 18 pesos to U.S. $1. The free market rate is now about 40 to 43 pesos for U. S. $1.

NEW GREEK DRIED FIG PACK FINDS FAVORABLE MARKET

Demand for the 1958 Greek dried fig pack, now forecast at 24,000 short tons, is reportedly brisk, with exports during the 1958-59 marketing year expected to reach 16,000 tons.

The 1957 pack was about the same size--24,500 tons; average production (1951-55) is 27,800 tons. The new pack is said to be of good quality; about 10 percent may be Grade A (suitable for the U. S. market), 30 percent Grade B, and 60 percent Grade C.

By mid-September, shipments of new-crop Greek figs to the United States had reached 75 percent of the 2,000 tons the Greek trade expects to ship during 1958-59. U. S. imports in 1956-57 and 1957-58 amounted to 1,754 and 1,558 tons, respectively. Greek shipments to the United States are usually completed well before Christmas.

Late September prices for U. S.-grade figs, ranging between 12.25 and 13.50 cents per pound, c. & f. New York, were well above those last year. Insurance varies between 10 and 20 percent of the c. & f. value, depending on the shipment rejection record of the exporter. If the exporter has no rejections this season, 50 percent of the insurance fees will be returned to him. Freight rates to the United States have been reduced by $1.82 to $23.18 per short ton; shipments can now be made to European ports for $11.82 per ton, $8.18 less than formerly.

Before the crop-damaging high temperatures of late August, growers were receiving 5.6 to 5.9 cents per pound for 1958 Grade A dried figs; 5.3 to 5.6 cents for Grade B; and 5.1 to 5.3 cents for Grade C.

After the heat damage, merchants adopted the following schedule of growers' prices in order to meet shipping commitments: Grade A--6.7 cents per pound; Grade B--6.0 cents; and Grade C--5.5 cents. As the export season progressed, however, growers' prices sagged and tended to return to the levels prevailing before the heat damage.

From September 1, 1957, through July 31, 1958, West Germany took 5,752 tons, or 43 percent of total Greek dried fig exports of 13,347 tons during that 11-month period. In the same 1956-57 export period, West Germany took 6,919 tons, or 41 percent of the 16,760-ton export total.

FIGS, DRIED: Greece, exports by country of destination, September 1-July 31, 1956-57 and 1957-58

Country of destination	September 1 - July 31	
	1956-57	1957-58
	Short tons	Short tons
Germany, West	6,919	5,752
Austria	2,049	1,800
United States	1,754	1,558
France	439	1,336
Switzerland	516	634
Germany, East	653	608
United Kingdom	218	516
India	554	306
Rumania	295	196
Other countries	3,372	641
Total	16,769	13,347

U. K. EXPORTS OF EVAPORATED MILK SHOW SHARP RISE

The United Kingdom exported 29.2 million pounds of evaporated milk during the first 8 months of 1958, 7 percent more than last year. An increase in exports to India and Burma more than offset decreased shipments to Malta, the U.K.'s primary market for evaporated milk.

Shipments of 33.3 million pounds of whole sweetened condensed milk during the January-August 1958 period were down 21 percent from 1957. Malaya continued to take about two-thirds of the total, but its imports were down sharply. Singapore and the West Indies also took less. Cuba, a market for 3.6 million pounds last year, had not taken any U. K. condensed milk through August of this year.

U. K. imports of all types of canned milk are up sharply this year, but there is no indication that the United Kingdom will become a net importer of these products. It has been one of the world's leading suppliers of canned milk since 1954.

GROWERS' PRICES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN
CANNING PEACHES AND PEARS

Prices received by South African growers for Cling and Freestone peaches and pears at the cannery during the 1957-58 season were as follows:

Peaches	Price per short ton	Pears	Price per short ton
	Dollars		Dollars
Yellow Clingstone:		Bon Chretien (Bartlett):	
Super grade	94.99	Selected	90.30
1st grade	83.79	Choice	74.90
2nd grade	55.79	Standard	40.60
3rd grade	27.79		
		Packham's Triumph:	
Freestone:		Selected	65.80
1st grade	58.59	Choice	53.20
2nd grade	38.99	Standard	28.00
3rd grade	22.19		
		Other varieties:	
		Selected	60.90
		Choice	47.60
		Standard	28.00

HEAVY PRODUCTION MARKS START OF
NEW ZEALAND DAIRY SEASON

The 1957-58 (July-June) New Zealand dairy season has started at record levels. Butterfat processed during the first 2 months of the season totaled 44.2 million pounds, 5.5 percent over last year. Weather in most dairy areas is favorable, but dry weather is slowing pasture growth in some southern areas.

CANADA FORECASTS RISE
IN TURKEY MARKETINGS

Canadian turkey producers estimate the number of birds marketed in 1958 will be about 15 percent greater than last year. However, due to a larger proportion of light-weight birds, total turkey meat production is not expected to change much from last year. During the first 7 months of 1958, 1.6 million turkeys were marketed; about 1.0 million were under 10 pounds live weight.

Although Canada's ban on turkey imports is still in effect, some licenses have been granted since mid-June 1958 for a small volume of dressed turkeys for soup manufacture.

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES: Wholesale prices at specified markets, with comparisons
(U. S. cents per pound)

Country, market, and description	Butter				Cheese			
	1958	Quotations			1958	Quotations		
		Current	Month earlier	Year earlier		Current	Month earlier	Year earlier
United Kingdom (London)								
New Zealand, finest	Sept 25	29.4	29.4	38.7	---	---	---	---
Australian choicest	Sept 25	29.2	29.2	38.6	---	---	---	---
New Zealand, finest white	---	---	---	---	Sept.25	23.9	23.1	21.1
Australian choicest white	---	---	---	---	Sept.25	22.9	22.6	19.2
Australia (Sydney)								
Choicest butter	Sept.25	48.5	48.5	46.7	---	---	---	---
Choicest cheddar	---	---	---	---	Sept.25	29.2	29.2	28.2
Irish Republic (Dublin)								
Creamery butter	Sept.25	54.8	54.8	54.8	---	---	---	---
Cheese	---	---	---	---	Sept 25	30.8	30.8	30.8
Denmark (Copenhagen)	Sept.18	31.3	28.0	36.1	---	---	---	---
France (Paris)								
Charentes creamery	Sept.29	75.8	73.7	75.8	---	---	---	---
Germany (Kempten)								
Markenbutter	Sept.24	65.4	64.3	68.0	---	---	---	---
United States								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Sept.25	62.0	60.8	63.0	---	---	---	---
Cheddar (Wisconsin)	---	---	---	---	Sept.25	35.0	34.5	36.0
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)								
Creamery butter	Sept.27	35.2	35.2	49.4	---	---	---	---
Full cream Gouda	---	---	---	---	Sept.19	20.9	19.0	24.2
Edam, 40 percent	---	---	---	---	Sept.19	19.6	17.8	22.3
Belgium (Hasselt)	Sept.25	73.5	73.4	81.1	---	---	---	---
Canada (Montreal)								
1st grade creamery	Sept.13	64.8	65.4	63.8	---	---	---	---
Ontario white	---	---	---	---	Sept.13	34.2	34.5	35.4

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, the Commonwealth Economic Committee; and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

DANES DISPOSE OF SURPLUS BUTTER

By the end of August, Danish surplus butter stocks were exhausted. Over 33 million pounds of cold storage butter had been sold on the domestic market at prices below those for freshly produced butter (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 17). The sale of this surplus butter raised Danish butter consumption substantially.

During the sale of the stored butter, many consumers developed a taste for unsalted butter; normally only salted butter is available on the Danish market. As a result, Danish consumers are now being offered fresh, non-salted butter in addition to salted butter.

The sale of the storage butter at the reduced price will cost the Danish dairy industry the equivalent of $3.6 million.

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE NUMBERS DROP

Australian cattle numbers on March 31 of this year showed their first decline since 1952.

The reduction in numbers is due to heavy slaughter because of drought. Improved pasture conditions indicate that this distress slaughter is now over, but the present trend in cattle numbers is uncertain. No significant increase in cattle numbers is expected during the coming year. Sheep numbers also dropped slightly, the first time since 1947, but hog numbers rose.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS: Australia, March 31, 1954-58, with percent change from previous year

Year	Sheep		Cattle		Hogs	
	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change
	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
1954	126,944	+3	15,601	+2	1,198	+21
1955	130,849	+3	15,836	+2	1,297	+8
1956	139,124	+6	16,457	+4	1,166	-10
1957 1/	149,802	+8	17,257	+5	1,325	+14
1958 2/	149,709	0	16,927	-2	1,424	+7

1/ Revised 2/ Preliminary.

Source: Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics.

PARAGUAY PRODUCING MORE MEAT

Cattle slaughter in Paraguay has increased sharply this year. New exchange rates make it unprofitable for Paraguayan producers to export cattle on the hoof to Brazil, and they are now marketing them within the country.

Canned and salted beef exports have risen sharply, especially to the United States, where beef prices are high. Frozen beef has been exported to some continental European countries, notably Greece. During the first 6 months of 1958, the value of meat exports rose to $3.1 million, more than double the value during the comparable 1957 period.

CANADIAN CATTLE SLAUGHTER DOWN

Inspected cattle slaughter in Canada dropped to 487,000 head during July-September 1958. This was a decline of 8 percent from the same period last year.

Calf slaughter dropped from 230,000 head to 184,000, or 20 percent. This sharp drop indicates that recent high cattle prices have encouraged farmers to expand their herds. Thus, although cattle numbers in Canada dropped during the last half of 1957 and the first part of 1958, a leveling-off or even an increase in numbers may be expected by the end of this year.

Any change in Canadian cattle numbers, however, will depend to a great extent on exports to the United States. Very heavy exports of last fall were largely responsible for the drop in cattle numbers reported in December and June. While exports to the United States are now at a high level, they are below those of last year.

Hog slaughter in July-September was up 22 percent over the same period of 1957, and slaughter during the last 3 months of the year is expected to continue heavy. Sheep and lamb slaughter declined.

LIVESTOCK: Canada, inspected slaughter, July-September 1954-58, with percent change from previous year

July-September	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and Lambs	
	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change
	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
1954	418	+4	196	+4	1,000	+12	189	-2
1955	404	-3	206	+5	1,290	+29	192	+2
1956	488	+20	221	+7	1,177	-9	182	-5
1957	528	+8	230	+4	1,076	-9	195	+7
1958	487	-8	184	-20	1,307	+22	179	-8

Source: Canadian Department of Agriculture.

DOMINION WOOL PRICES DIP
LOWER IN SEPTEMBER

Wool prices continued to decline at Dominion auctions in September. Prices were firm at lower levels during the first half of the month but declined in the closing weeks.

Merino 64's were down 8 percent from July levels and 31 percent from a year earlier. Crossbred 50's were down 4 and 34 percent for the same periods.

WOOL: Clean cost per pound, c.i.f. United Kingdom, based on auction sales in Dominions and United Kingdom, specified dates

Quality	September 1957	December 1957	May 1958	June 1958	July 1/ 1958	September 1958
	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars
70's	1.49	1.24	1.23	1.24	1.14	1.07
64's	1.40	1.12	1.10	1.14	1.05	.97
60's	1.33	1.07	1.03	1.04	.97	.89
58's	1.27	1.03	.94	2/ .96	.88	.82
56's	1.18	.98	.83	2/ .83	.83	1/ .79
50's	.97	.82	.68	2/ .68	.67	1/ .64
48's	.93	.79	.63	2/ .63	.64	1/ .62
46's	.91	.78	.61	2/ .61	.63	1/ .61

1/ London sales only. 2/ Nominal sales.

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency).

WEST GERMANY ISSUES IMPORT
TENDER FOR FAT BACKS

A new West German tender for imports of fat back may boost lagging U. S. fat back exports to that market.

Importers' applications for licenses were to have been submitted by October 23, 1958. Only firms which have imported fat back from the United States or Canada since January 1, 1955, will be issued licenses. A minimum of 3 metric tons and a maximum of 30 tons for individual firms was stipulated. No total quantity or value limit for the tender was announced.

Imports of 11 million pounds of U. S. fat back in 1957 accounted for 41 percent of West Germany's total imports of this product. However, imports from the United States during January-July 1958 came to only 1 million pounds, or 12 percent of Germany's fat back imports in the 7-month period. There have been no exports from the U. S. since January.

Prices of U. S. fresh fat back in mid-October were only slightly below a year earlier, ranging from 10 to 16-3/4 cents per pound at Chicago. Highest prices are paid for the heaviest selections, preferred by the Germans.

FAT BACK: West German imports, annual 1956 and 1957, and January-July 1957 and 1958

Country of origin	1956	1957	January-July 1957	January-July 1958
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States	16.5	11.0	7.1	1.0
Belgium	7.1	4.5	1.3	3.1
Netherlands	14.0	10.5	7.9	4.2
Other countries	1/ 13.5	.7	.8	--
Total	51.1	26.7	17.1	8.3
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
U. S. share of total	32	41	42	12

1/ Includes 9.8 million pounds from France and 3.6 million from Italy.

Source: Official West German trade statistics.

ARGENTINE MEAT SHIPMENTS TO U. S. IN SEPTEMBER

The following sailings and meat cargo to U. S. destinations are reported from the port of Buenos Aires:

Ship	Departure	U. S. Port	Quantity	Type
Sagoland	Sept. 18	Baltimore	38.9 metric tons	Cured beef
		New York	282.5 " "	Salted and cured beef
Normactide	Sept. 19	Baltimore	128.1 " "	Corned and roast beef
		Baltimore	51.6 " "	Cured beef
		Norfolk	52.8 " "	Corned beef
		Philadelphia	125.2 " "	Corned beef
		Philadelphia	48.2 " "	Frozen, cooked beef
		New York	188.3 " "	Salted and cured beef
		New York	21.1 " "	Corned and roast beef

CANADIAN HOG NUMBERS UP SHARPLY

There were 6,849,000 hogs on Canadian farms on September 1 this year--29 percent more than September 1957 numbers.

Hog numbers in Western Canada increased 34 percent, while numbers in Eastern Canada rose 25 percent. There are now more hogs in Western Canada than in Eastern Canada.

Hog farrowings are rising rapidly in Canada. During June-November 1958, farrowings are expected to be 40 percent above the same period last year. Farrowings were up 32 percent during June-August, and are expected to increase 50 percent during September-November. As usual, the largest farrowings were in Eastern Canada, but Western Canada showed the largest percentage increase.

FARROWINGS: Canada 1/, June-November 1954-58

Class	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Sows farrowed	510	540	415	2/ 471	3/ 655
Pigs saved	3,970	4,118	2/ 3,271	3,642	--

1/ Excludes Newfoundland. 2/ Revised. 3/ Sows bred to farrow.

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

PANAMA PROMOTING BEEF EXPORTS

A National Livestock Institute has been formed in Panama to promote exports of cattle and beef. The United States has been asked by the Panamanian Government to approve its inspection system, and this approval is being granted. Panama will then be able to export all types of beef products to the United States.

Subsidized exports of live cattle are to be continued indefinitely. However, cattle cannot be exported to the United States because of the presence of fever ticks in Panama.

In February 1957, the Institute for Economic Development in Panama set aside $20,000 to establish a fund to pay stockmen the difference between the domestic price and the export price on cattle. The fund was to maintained by an assessment of $1 per head on cattle slaughtered. Between February 1957 and April 1958, subsidy payments amounted to $25,648 on 1,869 head of cattle exported.

The Institute for Economic Development announced in June that it could not continue payments at this rate; this led to the creation of the new Livestock Institute. Its expenses are to be covered by an additional tax of $1 for each steer and 50 cents for each cow slaughtered. Payment of a subsidy on cattle exported will have first priority among expenditures.

Panama's cattle industry has developed rapidly in the past 7 years. Beef cattle were first exported in 1955. As supplies rose, Panama prohibited imports of chilled or frozen beef in 1957. Cattle numbers are now around 1 million head, according to some sources. If so, Panama has more than 1 head of cattle per person. Local prices for cattle range from 12½ to 14 cents a pound.

INDONESIA'S REGISTERED COPRA EXPORTS DOWN; PALM OIL UP

Indonesia's registered exports of copra in August were 7,660 long tons. January-August shipments at 33,149 tons were less than 20 percent of those in the comparable period last year.

It is now evident, however, that unregistered shipments from the Celebes and Moluccas this year have far exceeded previous estimates, according to reports from Djakarta. Unregistered shipments to Singapore and Penang averaged almost 12,000 tons per month during January-June, about 4,000 tons per month to North Borneo, and an estimated 14,000 tons per month to Europe and other areas.

During the period of rebel control in Sulawesi earlier this year, 90 vessels flying the flags of 16 different countries are reported to have engaged in barter traffic at Sulawesi ports. Copra shipped from these ports is estimated at 230,000 long tons; added to registered exports, this would bring total copra exports through August to about 260,000 tons, compared with about 200,000 tons, registered and unregistered, in the same period of 1957.

Copra cake exports of 8,732 long tons in August were the highest monthly shipment since the 13,803 tons shipped in January. Exports in the first 8 months of the year totaled 66,227 long tons, a decline of about 15 percent from the comparable period last year.

Palm oil exports in August were 14,356 short tons, the highest monthly shipment of the year. Cumulative January-August exports of 83,437 short tons were 5 percent above those of the first 8 months last year.

Palm kernel exports in August were 3,323 short tons. The revised total of 1,326 tons in Foreign Crops and Markets, September 29, 1958, was erroneously reported as a correction of the April figure. April exports were 3,143 short tons as originally reported, while the February total is revised to 1,326 tons. January-August shipments of 25,052 short tons were down 11 percent from the comparable period of 1957.

MALAYAN EXPORTS OF PALM OIL,
PALM KERNELS DOWN

Malayan exports of palm oil in January-March, at 15,585 short tons, were down 1 percent from the first quarter of 1957. Shipments of palm kernels, at 4,389 tons, were down 14 percent. The United Kingdom took about 60 percent of the palm oil, while 65 percent of the palm kernels went to Japan.

Palm oil production in January-June is estimated at 35,050 short tons, an increase of nearly 20 percent from the first half of 1957. With favorable weather, palm oil output is expected to increase about 5 percent annually as more of the high-yielding variety of oil palms mature.

PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS: Malaya, exports by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1957 and January-March 1957 and 1958

Continent and country of destination	Palm oil				Palm kernels			
	Average 1935-39	1957 1/	January-March 1957	January-March 1958 1/	Average 1935-39	1957 1/	January-March 1957	January-March 1958 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:								
Canada	17,977	11,274	1,118	2,850	---	---	---	---
United States	608	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total	18,585	11,274	1,118	2,850	---	---	---	---
Europe:								
Denmark	---	---	---	---	226	728	728	90
France	---	---	---	---	---	571	336	168
Germany, West	43	---	---	---	1,410	56	56	---
Greece	---	---	---	---	---	1,032	312	530
Italy	6	194	---	43	134	---	---	---
Netherlands	4	---	---	---	1,304	3,960	2,056	---
United Kingdom	23,270	32,387	8,067	9,488	2,115	2,078	1,636	756
Other	---	---	---	---	2,897	---	---	---
Total	23,323	32,581	8,067	9,531	8,086	8,425	5,124	1,544
Africa	915	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Asia:								
India	908	23,034	6,608	2,653	---	---	---	---
Iraq	---	113	---	448	---	---	---	---
Japan	922	---	---	---	46	9,767	---	2,845
Philippines	245	457	---	101	---	---	---	---
Other	531	42	16	---	---	---	---	---
Total	2,606	23,646	6,624	3,202	46	9,767	---	2,845
Oceania	52	3	---	2	---	---	---	---
Unspecified	1,879	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Grand total	47,360	67,504	15,809	15,585	8,132	18,192	5,124	4,389

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

CANADA'S 1958 GRAIN OUTLOOK IMPROVES

Canada's 1958 grain outturn is larger than expected, according to the second forecast of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Wheat production is now placed at 367.3 million bushels, very slightly below the 1957 harvest of 370.5 million. Earlier forecasts were for a crop of only 339 million bushels. This latest estimate is still well below the 1950-54 average of 537.6 million bushels. The total includes 16.3 million bushels of durum, compared with the record crop of 44 million bushels in 1957.

Acreage is 20 percent below the 1950-54 level, and yields average 15 percent less.

Production of feed grains is now estimated to be larger than last year. Barley, at 244 million bushels, and corn at 30 million, are above the 1950-54 average. Oats production of 403 million bushels, though larger than in 1957, is still below average. Rye production of 8 million bushels contrasts with a 1950-54 average of about 20 million. Mixed grain production is estimated at 65 million bushels, about average.

GRAIN: Canada, acreage, yield, and production, 1957 and 1958

Crop	Area		Yield per acre		Production	
	1957	1958	1957	1958 1/	1957	1958 1/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Winter wheat	590	580	33.2	42.0	19,588	24,360
Spring wheat	20,441	20,319	17.2	16.9	350,920	342,940
Total wheat	21,031	20,899	17.6	17.6	370,508	367,300
Oats for grain	11,017	11,039	34.5	36.5	380,599	403,168
Barley	9,403	9,548	23.0	25.5	215,993	243,921
Rye	551	521	15.5	16.0	8,539	8,326
Mixed grains	1,452	1,422	43.6	45.8	63,292	65,172
Corn for grain	514	498	57.6	60.2	29,613	30,017
Buckwheat	107	102	20.5	20.0	2,202	2,047
			Short tons	Short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
Tame hay	210	212	1.30	1.90	273	403

1/ Estimates based on conditions in mid-September.
From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

WESTERN EUROPE'S WHEAT
PRODUCTION SMALLER

Wheat production in Western Europe is now estimated at 1,300 million bushels, about 5 percent less than the record harvest in that area last year. Early in the season, the outturn was expected to be close to that in 1957, but a wet harvest season caused heavy losses in some countries, especially in France, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.

In these countries, as well as some others, quality of the grain was also lowered considerably by the bad weather. Significant quantities of wheat below milling standards will probably be fed in countries where grown, or be exported for feed. Thus, U. S. feed grain exporters may find requirements for feed grains reduced in this area.

High-grade wheat will be needed to meet required grist standards, and competitition for the quality market is expected to be heavy. Canada's crop, though small, is of high quality, and carryover stocks are near-record. The Soviet Union's large crop is also likely to provide sizable export supplies. In early 1959, Australia too will have large supplies; its late 1958 harvest is expected to be about double the small 1957 crop. Argentina's outlook is good, and its December harvest may also be larger than last year.

France was hardest hit by the unfavorable harvest weather, and much of the crop is low grade. Sizable quantities of high-quality wheat will be imported to fill 1958-59 export commitments. Exports of feed wheat, however, are expected to be large enough to maintain the country's position as a net exporter.

Excessive rain in the United Kingdom made the harvest season there the most difficult in many years. Because of high acreage, production will be fairly large, but low quality grain will be a problem. Import requirements may be larger than last year.

Ireland had a long rainy season and yields are sharply below the large yields last year. Import requirements are forecast at more than 9 million bushels, compared with net imports of about 3 million a year ago. Imports of feed grains may be smaller, however, because of the availability of low-grade wheat for feeding.

West Germany's harvest apparently turned out well despite delays. Yields are estimated above average though below the high level of the past 2 years. Quality was not seriously affected. Yields were about average in Austria and above average in Switzerland, where quality is reported excellent. Bumper harvests are reported for Italy and Greece, and above-average crops in Spain and Portugal--though the latter are below the large 1957 outturns. Belgium's crop is larger than last year because of increased acreage.

Conditions varied in Scandinavia. Sweden's weather was good during harvest while Denmark had bad weather and some losses. Despite the losses, Denmark's crop is about the same as in 1957, since larger acreage offset reduced yields.

MALAYA ASSURES MARKET FOR AUSTRALIAN WHEAT

Under a recent trade agreement with Australia, effective August 26, 1958, Malaya undertakes to assure a market for 80,000 tons of Australian flour and 14,000 tons of wheat annually by protecting that much Australian flour and wheat against "dumped" European products. Australia, in turn, will no longer charge a duty on Malayan rubber, and Malayan tin will continue to enter Australia duty free. Australia also has agreed to allow Malaya a larger measure of preference on the existing duty on Malayan sawed timber.

YUGOSLAV CORN EXPORTS UP IN 1957-58

Yugoslavia exported 406,000 metric tons (16 million bushels) of corn during 1957-58, of which 359,000 tons were shipped in January-June 1958.

Postwar corn exports reached a peak in 1951-52, at 592,000 metric tons (23 million bushels). During the next 5 years, harvests were poor and exports were insignificant, except in 1953-54. A record crop in 1957 made it possible for Yugoslavia to reenter the world corn market. In 1958, however, dry weather has damaged the crop and a poor harvest is forecast. Exportable supplies will be down, and exports are expected to be small, if there are any at all.

CORN: Yugoslav exports by country of destination, 1953-57, year beginning July 1

Destination	Year beginning July 1				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Austria	34,673	8,387	10,051	6,541	31,860
Belgium-Luxembourg	7,565	300	--	--	2,935
Czechoslovakia	--	--	21,832	4,731	73,287
Finland	--	--	--	--	9,450
France	25,035	--	--	--	46,979
Germany, East	--	--	--	--	9,865
Germany, West	67,685	1,746	45	2,000	58,479
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	24,507
Poland	--	--	7,245	--	300
Switzerland	18,672	575	--	--	12,214
United Kingdom	18,599	--	--	--	123,800
U.S.S.R.	--	--	2	--	9,618
Others	45	--	--	--	2,680
Total	172,274	11,008	39,175	13,272	405,974

Compiled from official and other sources.

JAPAN EXPECTS TO HARVEST NEAR-RECORD RICE CROP

Despite heavy typhoon damage in late September, Japan expects a near-record rice crop this year. The official estimate of October 4, based on crop conditions on September 15, was 12,403,000 metric tons of brown rice (34 billion pounds of rough rice), a record crop. However, damage from the September 26 typhoon is estimated at around 300,000 metric tons.

Therefore, production is forecast at around 12,100,000 tons (33,200 million pounds), provided harvesting conditions are favorable. Harvesting usually extends from early September through November, though the bulk of the crop is harvested in October. The record crop of 1955 was 12,385,000 tons (33,960 million pounds).

CEYLON TO STEP UP IMPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN FLOUR

Under the trade pact signed in August between Ceylon and Australia (see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 29), Ceylon has agreed to take 30,000 long tons of Australian flour this year and 100,000 tons in 1959 and 1960.

Ceylon will therefore have to step up its Australian flour imports considerably in the last half of this year; its imports from Australia during the first 6 months of 1958 dropped to only 5 percent of the country's total flour imports, compared with 65 percent in 1956 and 1957. The reduction is attributed to the availability of flour from France at lower prices.

FLOUR: Imports by Ceylon, quantities and average c.i.f. values, annual 1956 and 1957, January-June 1958

Source	1956			1957			January-June 1958		
	Total	Share	Value per cwt.	Total	Share	Value per cwt.	Total	Share	Value per cwt.
	1,000 cwt. 1/	Percent	Rs. 2/	1,000 cwt. 1/	Percent	Rs. 2/	1,000 cwt. 1/	Percent	Rs. 2/
Australia....	2,380	65.3	19.8	2,503	65.3	21.9	74	4.8	22.3
France.......	1,014	27.8	18.0	726	18.9	22.2	1,177	75.8	16.1
Others.......	251	6.9	27.9	606	15.8	24.7	301	19.4	29.8
Total...	3,645	100.0	19.3	3,835	100.0	22.4	1,552	100.0	19.1

1/ One hundred weight of 112 pounds.
2/ Approximately 4.75 Ceylon rupees = U. S. $1.00.

TURKEY MAY EXPORT MORE WHEAT

Turkey may export up to 500,000 metric tons of wheat during 1958-59, compared with practically none during the last 2 years. This estimate is based on the probable availability of larger export supplies from good harvests in 1957 and 1958. Turkish wheat exports reached a peak of 871,000 metric tons in 1953-54.

WHEAT: Turkey, imports and exports, 1953-58, year beginning July 1

Year beginning July 1	Imports	Exports
	Metric tons	Metric tons
1953	---	870,800
1954	169,900	407,400
1955	94,300	263,000
1956	303,800	100
1957 1/	310,800	---
1958 2/	109,000	500,000

1/ Year beginning June 1 (preliminary). 2/ Year beginning June 1 (estimated).

Compiled from official and other sources.

GUATEMALA PLACES SHORTENING AND MARGARINE UNDER IMPORT LICENSES

Guatemala has placed the following fats and oils commodities under its new import licensing system effective September 30, 1958 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 20): Margarine, oleomargarine, butter substitutes not elsewhere specified, vegetable shortening, and mixed vegetable shortening in containers of 10 kilos (22.046 pounds) or larger.

These commodities are in Category C, which means that licenses will be issued to importers on a quarterly basis for quantities equal to 50 percent of imports during the same quarter of 1957.

EUROPEAN MARGARINE CONSUMPTION: CORRECTION

The estimated per capita consumption of margarine in selected Western European countries appearing on page 27 of Foreign Crops and Markets, October 13, 1958, under the year 1938 are partially incorrect. The consumption per capita in pounds should read as follows: Belgium, 14.8; Denmark, 47.4; Finland, 7.9; West Germany, 13.4; Netherlands, 15.7; Norway, 41.2; Sweden, 20.5; United Kingdom, 10.0.

U. S. EXPORTS OF AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN COTTON CONTINUE AT LOW LEVEL

U. S. exports of American-Egyptian (extra-long staple) cotton were only 52 bales (500 pounds gross) in August 1958. There were no exports of this type cotton in July, and only 99 bales were exported in August 1957. All of the August exports went to the United Kingdom.

AUSTRALIA IMPORTS LESS COTTON IN 1957-58

Cotton imports into Australia during the 1957-58 season (August-July) were 86,000 bales (500 pounds gross), down 15 percent from imports of 101,000 bales in 1956-57.

Imports from the United States came to 66,000 bales, compared with 74,000 bales in 1956-57. This was a decrease of 11 percent, although the U. S. share of total imports increased from 73 percent in 1956-57 to 77 percent in 1957-58.

Quantities imported from sources other than the United States in 1957-58, with comparable 1956-57 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 16,000 (20,000); India 1,000 (1,000); Pakistan 1,000 (3,000); and Peru 1,000 (1,000). Smaller quantities were imported from Brazil, Sudan, Mainland China, and Uganda.

Government efforts to expand cotton production in recent years have been unsuccessful due to unreliable weather and competition from other crops. The 1958-59 crop is estimated at 2,000 bales from 9,000 acres--the same as in the previous season. The 1956-57 crop was 3,000 bales from 8,000 acres.

Australia's cotton consumption in 1957-58 is estimated at 95,000 bales, the same as in 1956-57. Most of the cotton used by Australian mills is for medium to coarse count yarns, cordage, thread, and fabrics such as canvas, denims, and sheeting. Fine count cotton yarns and fine cotton fabrics used in Australia are usually imported. About 2,000 bales of cotton are consumed annually as a mixture in woolen fabrics, for bedding, and for other purposes. Cotton stocks on July 31, 1958, were estimated at 19,000 bales, compared with 26,000 bales a year earlier.

Domestic cotton is sold to Australian spinners at a base price of 35.5 pence per pound (33.13 U. S. cents), for Middling 1-inch quality. This price is subject to adjustments based on increases or decreases in the Commodity Credit Corporation's export sales price for U. S. cotton of the same grade. Imported cotton is sold to spinners at prices prevailing on world markets, plus transportation and insurance costs.

BRAZIL'S COTTON EXPORTS AND PRODUCTION DECLINE

Cotton exports from Brazil, at 215,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in the 1957-58 season (August-July), were down 43 percent from the 380,000 bales exported in 1956-57 and at the lowest level since 1952-53.

Brazilian cotton exports have declined sharply in recent years, mainly because this cotton has been priced above world levels, except under special bilateral arrangements. The high prices of Brazilian cotton are a result of lower domestic production and high minimum export prices to protect the local textile industry.

Although exports to Japan declined sharply in 1957-58, this was still the largest single market for Brazilian cotton. Quantities exported to principal destinations in 1957-58, with comparable 1956-57 figures in parenthesis, were: Japan 98,000 bales (167,000); West Germany 34,000 (13,000); United Kingdom 17,000 (31,000); France 15,000 (21,000); Uruguay 15,000 (3,000); Spain 12,000 (28,000); Hong Kong 11,000 (32,000); Sweden 3,000 (3,000); Netherlands 3,000 (4,000); Italy 2,000 (19,000); United States 1,000 (2,000); Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1,000 (0); and Belgium 1,000 (8,000).

Brazil's 1957-58 cotton crop is estimated at 1,280,000 bales, down 3 percent from the 1956-57 crop of 1,325,000 bales. Cotton acreage continued to decline in 1957-58, amounting to 3,700,000 acres, compared with 4,300,000 acres in 1956-57, and 5,000,000 acres in 1955-56. Most of the acreage reductions in recent years have been in South Brazil as a result of unfavorable weather, heavy insect infestations, dissatisfaction with minimum prices, and competition from other crops. Acreage in North and Northeast Brazil does not change much from year to year.

Some acreage increase is expected in South Brazil in 1958-59, as the guaranteed minimum prices for seed cotton were recently increased from the equivalent of 12.99 U. S. cents per pound to 15.10 cents. Total 1958-59 acreage in Brazil will probably be around 4,000,000 acres. However, total production in 1958-59 is expected to decline slightly due to the severe drought in North Brazil.

Brazilian cotton consumption in 1957-58 is estimated at 1,050,000 bales, up slightly from 1,040,000 bales used in 1956-57. South Brazilian mill activity in 1957-58 was reportedly about equal to the previous season, while mill activity in North Brazil increased slightly. Consumption in 1958-59 is expected to be close to the 1957-58 level.

Cotton stocks on July 31, 1958, were estimated at 560,000 bales, up 2 percent from the 550,000 bales held a year earlier.

NEW ZEALAND'S AGRICULTURE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

Dry weather in the East Coast sections of New Zealand is causing farmers increased concern. The area affected extends from Poverty Bay in North Island to the northern part of Otago in South Island. There is considerable level farming land in these coastal regions and if adequate rains do not come by November, yields of wheat and other crops may be sharply reduced.

Condition of pastures for dairying and fat lamb production is also poor. In some of the harder-hit areas, the mutton and lamb market is already somewhat depressed. Fattening is difficult because of the short grass; a limited number of lambs have been slaughtered several weeks ahead of the normal slaughtering and marketing season.

INDIA ALLOWS FURTHER EXPORTS OF SHORT-STAPLE COTTON

India announced on October 7, 1958, that 250,000 bales (400 pounds gross) of short-staple cotton would be released for export. This quota will consist of 150,000 bales of Bengal Desi cotton, and 100,000 bales of other varieties of 3/4-inch and shorter staple. Licenses will be granted on a first-come-first-served basis.

Cotton released for export thus far in the 1958-59 season (August-July) now totals 376,200 bales. This includes 185,000 bales of Bengal Desi cotton, 161,200 bales of all varieties of 3/4-inch and shorter staple, and 30,000 bales 25/32-inch and shorter staple.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS DOWN IN AUGUST

U. S. exports of cotton (all types) were 215,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (209,000 running bales) in August 1958. This was less than half the July exports of 486,000 bales, and 39 percent below exports of 351,000 bales in August 1957.

Sales under the 1958-59 cotton export program of the Commodity Credit Corporation, for export between August 1, 1958, and July 31, 1959, totaled 1,094,817 running bales as of October 13, 1958. The average selling price, basis Middling 1-inch cotton, average location, was 28.85 cents per pound for the October 13 sales, compared with 28.36 cents per pound for sales on September 29, 1958. In addition to the CCC sales, cotton exported from commercial stocks, under the "payment-in-kind" program, totaled 198,380 bales as of October 13.

Cotton exports in the 1958-59 season are expected to be from 4,000,000 to 4,500,000 running bales, compared with 5,718,000 bales in 1957-58.

COTTON: United States exports of cotton by country of destination, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1956 and 1957, August 1957 and 1958

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1: Average 1935-39	Average 1950-54	1956	1957	August 1957	August 1958
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria	0	38	55	55	5	2
Belgium	169	121	337	182	25	4
Denmark	33	29	25	26	2	1/
Finland	35	13	33	19	1	1/
France	662	431	433	367	4	38
Germany, West	511	382	1,061	623	65	17
Italy	442	379	722	572	32	13
Netherlands	107	127	260	113	11	2
Norway	17	14	21	13	1	0
Poland	180	2/ 1	27	248	10	29
Portugal	36	3/ 9	91	24	3	0
Spain	108	142	174	217	0	15
Sweden	115	53	111	130	6	5
Switzerland	11	42	121	81	9	1
United Kingdom	1,346	434	1,050	709	59	15
Yugoslavia	17	86	141	115	0	1/
Other Europe	4/ 96	5	38	18	4	1/
Total Europe	3,885	2,306	4,700	3,512	237	141
Canada	301	311	380	277	7	4
Cuba	11	19	31	46	4	1
Israel	5/	12	19	18	0	1/
Hong Kong	5/	3/ 11	95	138	4	6
India	52	253	301	114	3	1
Indonesia	5/	19	43	31	2	1
Korea, Republic of	5/	80	220	207	1	10
Japan	1,142	871	1,589	1,174	71	32
Philippines, Republic of	2	9	36	59	3	1
Taiwan (Formosa)	5/	85	162	110	1/	6
Chile	9	24	74	35	4	1/
Colombia	20	30	52	69	2	1
French North Africa	5/	9	17	11	0	2
Union of South Africa	5/	6	31	37	3	3
Australia	9	3/ 39	81	67	5	4
Other countries	6/ 158	50	7/ 86	54	5	2
Total 500-lb. bales	5,589	4,134	7,917	5,959	351	215
Total running bales	5,300	3,977	7,598	5,717	336	209

1/ Less than 500 bales. 2/ One-year only. 3/ 4-year average. 4/ Includes Czechoslovakia 65 and Norway 17. 5/ If any, included in other countries. 6/ Includes China 117, and French Indochina 22. 7/ Includes Bolivia 11, Pakistan 28, and Uruguay 15.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

U. S. COTTON LINTERS EXPORTS DECLINE

United States exports of cotton linters, mostly chemical qualities, were 13,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in August 1958. This was a decline of 24 percent from July exports of 17,000 bales, and was 28 percent below the 18,000 bales exported in August 1957.

Destinations of linters exports in August 1958, with comparable 1957 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 6,000 bales (14,000); Canada 2,500 (3,000); Japan 2,500 (0); France 1,000 (0); and the United Kingdom 1,000 (1,000).

"INSTANT" COFFEE EXPORTS GIVEN FREE MARKET EXCHANGE IN BRAZIL

Brazil's soluble coffee exports have been placed on the free market exchange. Soluble coffee previously had been under category 4 for exchange purposes. The exchange rate for items in category 4 is 92 cruzeiros to the dollar, compared with the present free market rate of about 140 cruzeiros to the U. S. $1.

Green coffee exports are under category 1 for exchange purposes. The exchange rate for category 1 is 37.06 cruzeiros to the dollar, but premiums for quality raise the effective rate somewhat.

COLOMBIA CONSIDERING SUBSTITUTE CROPS FOR COFFEE REGIONS

Colombia's National Committee of Coffee Growers has appointed a commission to study the possibilities of growing substitute crops in the country's coffee zones.

The commission consists of the Minister of Agriculture, the Director of the Coffee Growers Federation, and the Manager of the Agricultural Credit Bank. A group of technicians, mainly agronomists and economists, will work under the commission's direction.

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U. S. Exports of Dairy Breeding Cattle, January-July 1958. Foreign Agriculture Circular FD 13-58.

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